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SENATE BILL 1537

By Cooper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 10,  
to enact the "Election Reform Act of 2001".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known as the "Election Reform Act of 2001".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-10-306, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection to be designated as follows:

(c) For purposes of this section, "contributions" includes a purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit or gift of money or anything of value for a communication, except those communications exempt under §2-10-102(3)(B), (C) or (D), that refers to one or more clearly identified candidates for state public office by name, picture, likeness, or otherwise, and such communication is transmitted through radio, television, billboard, newspaper, magazine or other periodical, or any other medium within sixty (60) days of the date of an election which must be disclosed in accordance with §2-10-105(j).

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-10-105, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection (k):

(k) If a person makes a purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit or gift of money or anything of value for a communication, except those communications exempt under §2-10-102(3)(B), (C) or (D), that refers to one or more clearly identified candidates for state public office by name, picture, likeness, or otherwise, and such communication is transmitted through radio, television, billboard, newspaper, magazine or other periodical, or any other medium within sixty (60) days of the date of an election, then, if the total disbursements or obligations of such person for such communication related to any particular candidate for state public office exceeds two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) at any time within such sixty (60) day period, such person shall file a statement with the registry of election finance disclosing all receipts and disbursements made related to such communication within three (3) days of such date and otherwise on the dates set forth in this section for reports by candidates, except that the deadlines contained in subsection (h) shall apply to any disbursements by the person in excess of twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500). Reports filed pursuant to this subsection shall contain the information described in subsection (h) or in Section 2-10-107, as appropriate.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.